

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 11113 01 OF 02 301145Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /090 W

-----106878 301217Z /46

P 301117Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7933

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 11113

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: CONVERSATION WITH MARCOS

REF: MANILA 10896

1. SUMMARY: MARCOS TOLD ME JUNE 29 THAT OVERALL PURPOSE OF RECENT RELEASES AND AMNESTIES, AS WELL AS ACCELERATING OF MILITARY TRIALS, IS TO CLEAR THE MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS AND DISMANTLE THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL SYSTEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT SPECIFY OR IMPLY ANY TIME LIMIT FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES. ONLY THE "HARD-CORE" OR DANGEROUS SUBVERSIVES AND HARDENED CRIMINALS WILL BE KEPT IN DETENTION. HE INTENDS TO TRANSFER ALL REMAINING UNTRIED CASES TO CIVILIAN COURTS AND PLACE NO FURTHER CIVILIAN CASES BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS. HE SAID THAT DETAINEES GIVEN WHAT MEDIA REPORTED AS "TEMPORARY RELEASES" ARE IN FACT BEING SET COMPLETELY FREE. HE SUGGESTED WE CONTACT MIN DEF ENRILE FOR "WORKING LEVEL" DISCUSSION OF DETAINEE MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. MUCH OF CONVERSATION WITH MARCOS JUNE 29 CONSISTED OF HIS MONOLOGUE IN RESPONSE MY REQUEST HE CLARIFY SITUATION OF POLITICAL DETAINEES IN PHILIPPINES. REFERRED TO CONFUSING SERIES OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT LARGE NUMBERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 11113 01 OF 02 301145Z

AMNESTIED. MARCOS SAID THE OVERRIDING OBJECTIVES OF THE RELEASES AND AMNESTIES, AS WELL AS STEPS TAKEN TO ACCELERATE CASES BEFORE MILITARY COURTS, IS TO CLEAR OUT THE DETENTION SYSTEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SAID HE RECOGNIZES THE MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS HAVE LONG BEEN A PUBLIC RELATIONS LIABILITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT. ONCE THE RELEASES AND AMNESTIES ARE COMPLETED, HE INTENDS TO TRANSFER ALL CASES

NOT YET TRIED TO THE CIVILIAN COURTS AND WILL PLACE NO FURTHER CASES BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS. THIS WILL ENABLE HIM TO DO AWAY WITH THE MILITARY TRIBUNALS, EXCEPT OF COURSE FOR MILITARY OFFENDERS. THE MILITARY

ESTABLISHMENT, HE SAID, OPPOSES THE TRANSFER OF THE CASES BECAUSE OF "PROVEN CORRUPTIBILITY" OF CIVILIAN JUDGES, BUT MARCOS FEELS HE MUST GO AHEAD ANYWAY. HE HAS APPOINTED WELL OVER 100 NEW FIRST-INSTANCE AND APPEALS JUDGES TO HANDLE THIS CASE LOAD.

3. ALL BUT A HARD-CORE OF LESS THAN 300 IDEOLOGUES AND HARDENED CRIMINALS HAS BEEN OR WILL BE RELEASED, MARCOS SAID. OTHERS IN MILITARY DETENTION WERE CHARGED WITH SERIOUS CRIMES SUCH AS MURDER AND ARSON. HE DEFINED "HARD-CORE" AS COMMUNIST PARTY AND COMMUNIST FRONT MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE KABATAANG MAKABAYAN (NATIONALIST YOUTH), PLUS HARDENED CRIMINALS. HE STRESSED THAT THERE WERE NEVER MORE THAN 900 REAL IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSIVES IN DETENTION AT ANY TIME. THE NON-VIOLENT IDEOLOGUES AND CRIMINALS IN MILITARY DETENTION WILL ALL BE RELEASED. HE COMMENTED THAT HE PLANS TO DO AWAY WITH THE MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS. HE SPOKE OF HAVING THE HARD-CORE SENT TO ISOLATED ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH WHERE THEY COULD LIVE WITH THEIR FAMILIES, WORK ON REHABILITATION PROGRAMS AND NOT CONSTITUTE A SECURITY PROBLEM. AT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 11113 01 OF 02 301145Z

ANOTHER TIME, HE SPOKE OF TRANSFORMING ONE OR TWO ARMY CAMPS INTO NATIONAL PENITENTIARIES WHERE THE "HARD-CORE" COULD BE HELD.

4. MARCOS AGREED IT NOT RPT NOT EASY TO MAKE SENSE OF THE NAME LISTS PUBLISHED BY LOCAL PRESS OF THOSE AMNESIED. HE NOTED THAT MANY NON-POLITICAL DETAINEES ARE INCLUDED IN THE LISTS OF PEOPLE ORDERED RELEASED, EXPLAINING THAT MANY COMMON CRIMINALS HAVE CLAIMED TO BE "POLITICAL PRISONERS" AS A QUICK WAY OF GETTING OUT OF JAIL. NOTING THAT THE COUNTRY'S JAILS ARE FULL, THE COURT SYSTEM IS SERIOUSLY PLAGUED WITH BACKLOGS, AND THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL NOT VOTE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR MORE JAILS AND COURTS, MARCOS SAID HE WOULD NOT BE HARD-NOSED ABOUT THIS RUSE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HE SAID THAT THE DETAINEES DESCRIBED BY MEDIA AS BEING "TEMPORARILY RELEASED" (AS OPPOSED TO THOSE BEING PERMANENTLY FREED) HAVE INCOMPLETE LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST THEM AND AND THUS "CANNOT BE SET FREE" BUT IN ACTUAL FACT THEIR RELEASES ARE PERMANENT.

5. AFTER COMMENTING FAVORABLY ON THE GOP'S DECISION TO

RELEASE POLITICAL DETAINEES, I NOTED THAT THE FLOOD OF NAMES, COMBINED WITH THE GREAT AMOUNT OF OFTEN CONFLICTING COVERAGE BY THE MEDIA (BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN) OF RECENT GOP ACTIONS INVOLVING DETAINEES AND MILITARY TRIBUNALS, RAISED MANY QUESTIONS WHICH WE AND OTHER OBSERVERS FIND DIFFICULT TO ANSWER. I ASKED IF MARCOS MIGHT, THEREFORE, AUTHORIZE ONE OR MORE GOP OFFICIALS AT THE WORKING LEVEL TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE EMBASSY AS THEY AROSE; SUCH A CONTACT WOULD ENABLE US TO GAIN A

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 11113 02 OF 02 301142Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /090 W
-----106860 301218Z /46

P 301117Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7928

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 11113

FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF GOP ACTIONS. SUGGESTED HE DESIGNATE SOME ONE IN THE JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE OR ON THE COMMAND FOR ADMINISTRATION OF DETAINEES. MARCOS REFLECTED BRIEFLY AND THEN SAID HE WOULD DESIGNATE SUCH A CONTACT. AFTER HESITATING BETWEEN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE AND POLICE CONSTABULARY CHIEF GENERAL RAMOS, HE SETTLED ON ENRILE.

6. COMMENT: I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH ENRILE IN COMING DAYS BUT AM NOT CONFIDENT, UNLESS ENRILE GETS VERY CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FORTHCOMING IN ANSWERING OUR QUESTIONS, ABOUT RESULTS THIS WILL PRODUCE. ALSO, MINDEF IS UNLIKELY BE ABLE PROVIDE TYPE OF DETAILED DATA WE WILL BE SEEKING WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SUBORDINATES. OUR HOPE IS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE WHO IS TRULY AT THE WORKING LEVEL IN THE GOP HIERARCHY WHOSE KNOWLEDGE WE CAN TAP ROUTINELY. WE WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM GROUPS SUCH AS THE CHURCH TASK FORCE WHICH ARE INDEPENDENT AND CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT. MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA11113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780270-0696
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978064/aaaaacqi.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f99d4685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 10896
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2279869
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: CONVERSATION WITH MARCOS
TAGS: SHUM, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f99d4685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014